



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Oct. 9, 2007

For More Information Contact:
Michelle Feist
Tracy Miller, MPH
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.2378
E-mail: mafeist@nd.gov
tkmiller@nd.gov

State Health Department Reports Third West Nile Virus-Related Death

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the state's third West Nile virus-related death in 2007. The man was a resident of southwestern North Dakota, was older than 60 and had underlying medical conditions.

"This death is an unfortunate reminder that West Nile virus can be a very severe disease," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "Everyone, but especially people older than 50, should make sure they are wearing repellent and protective clothing every time they go outside."

As of Oct. 2, 2007, 339 human West Nile virus infections and three deaths have been reported. Last year at this time, the department had reported 133 cases and one death.

"The cooler weather means there is less risk for becoming infected with the virus," said Michelle Feist, West Nile virus surveillance coordinator for the Department of Health. "Until there is a hard frost to get rid of the remaining mosquito population, people should continue to use personal precautions. Although the risk for infection is small, it is still there."

The Department of Health's West Nile virus website, www.ndhealth.gov/wnv, is updated each Wednesday with the most current human, horse, bird and mosquito case information. For more information, contact Michelle Feist or Tracy Miller, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378.

-- 30 --

To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.